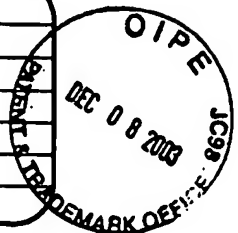


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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT		Application Number	10/657,065
		Filing Date	September 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Nancy Lucas
		Group Art Unit	TBA 3727
		Examiner Name	TBA Jes F. Pasqua
(use as many sheets as necessary)		Attorney Docket Number	005216.00013
Sheet	1	of	2



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-43,567	07-19-1884	Campbell	
		US- 1,897,910	05-29-1931	Malvern et al.	
		US- 3,811,543	05-21-1974	Parrochia	
		US- 3,999,656	12-28-1976	Hydom	
		US- 4,343,053	08-10-1982	O'Connor	
		US- 4,911,562	03-27-1990	Mazzeschi	
		US- 5,393,293	02-28-1995	Cilia et al	
		US- 5,584,599	12-17-1996	Knittel	
		US- 5,695,286	12-09-1007	Williamson et al.	
		US- 5,782,562	07-21-1998	Anspacher	
		US- 6,149,555	11-21-2000	Kinback	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		GB 2 069 456	08-28-1981	Elk & Company Ltd.		
		JP 64-23955	01-26-1989			
		JP 226460	07-10-1991			
		JP 3-242156	10-29-1991			

Examiner Signature	<i>Jes F. Pasqua</i>	Date Considered	05/26/06
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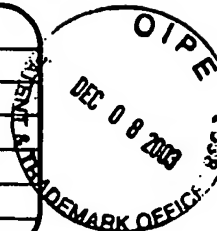
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.
³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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		Filing Date	September 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Nancy Lucas
		Group Art Unit	TBA 3727
		Examiner Name	TBA Jes F. Pasqua
		Attorney Docket Number	005216.00013
Sheet	2	of	2



OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Morton Salt, Water Softening, http://www.mortonsalt.com/consumer/products/watersoftening/system_saver.htm	
		Cargill Salt, Diamond Crystal, http://www.cargillsalt.com/cargillsalt/product.asp?catalog%5Fname=Salt+Product+Catalog&category%5Fname=Water+Condit...	
		Cargill Salt Advertising Brochure, No date	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	05/26/06
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

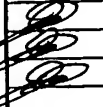
(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete If Known

Application Number	10/657,065
Filing Date	September 9, 2003
First Named Inventor	Lucas et al.
Group Art Unit	3727
Examiner Name	IBA Jas F. Pasqua
Attorney Docket Number	005216.00013

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,611,626	03-18-1997	Warr	
		US- 6,402,379	06-11-2002	Albright	
		US- 6,609,999	08-26-2003	Albright	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

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		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

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U.S. Serial No. 10/657,065
Lucas et al.



Sheet 1 of 1

PTO-1449 (Modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT	ATTY. DOCKET NO. 005216.00013	SERIAL NUMBER 10/657,065
	APPLICANT Lucas et al.	
	FILING DATE September 9, 2003	GROUP ART UNIT 3727

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	FILING DATE
<i>[Signature]</i>	5,593,229	01/1997	Warr	—	—	

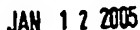
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO	
<i>[Signature]</i>	2 341 382 A	03/2000	Great Britain	—	—		
<i>[Signature]</i>	76 19 583	10/1976	Germany	—	—		
<i>[Signature]</i>	2 227 928 A	08/1990	Great Britain Germany	—	—		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

<i>[Signature]</i>	International Search Report dated November 11, 2004.

EXAMINER <i>Joe J. Pasqua</i>	DATE CONSIDERED 05/26/06
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Sheet	1	of	1
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Complete if Known

Application Number	10/657,065
Filing Date	September 9, 2003
First Named Inventor	Nancy Lucas
Art Unit	3727
Examiner Name	TBA <i>Jes F. Pascua</i>
Attorney Docket Number	005216.00013

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

**Examiner
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Geo. L. Brown

Date Considered

05/26/06

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